Visa Collection Centre, as an extension of the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi. As the arrangement is presently working well, it was decided to continue with it for the time being.

Laying of Optic-Fibre Cable Network

3706. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Planning Commission Member, while speaking at the recent Nasscom-2001 Mega Summit, observed that there was need to get the States involved in providing right of way for telecom companies to lay optic-fibre cable network as it would ensure better bandwidth capacity; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to seek States' involvement in building up adequate bandwidth capacity through the optic-fibre network to boost up IT export growth rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) To encourage building up of adequate band-width capacity. State Governments are permitting liberally Right of Way to telecom operators to lay down the optic-fibre cable.

E-Governance Centres

3707. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Centre of E-Governance in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the service provided by the centre and its location;

(c) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for setting up of such centres all over the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial aspects of E-Governance centres?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Centre for E-Governance has been set up by the Ministry of Information Technology. This Centre is located at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi. The Centre showcases the best practices in the area of E-Governance and conducts programme for creating awareness amongst decision makers in the Centre and the State Governments. A few of the successful applications in the country are also demonstrated here.

The Centre is integrated in the Ministry of Information Technology and has no commercial or revenue earning objective. It does not have any separate financial identity.

Community Information Centres in North-East and Sikkim

3708. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the development made in setting up of community information centres in the North-East and Sikkim to provide connectivity at block level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set up such centres all over the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 30 Community Information Centres set up under the pilot project are fully functional and are gaining in popularity and utility to the users. With a view to further enhancing the utility of these centres, it has been considered expedient to develop suitable content relevant to the requirements of the local community, with active participation and support of State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.